

# 49ERS

## REPORT



## Nothing' Could Be Finer

Niners get revenge and the homefield edge

**Quarterback Shot**  
Jesse Sapolu

... Page 11

### Did You Know?

WR John Taylor, in nine seasons in the NFL, has gotten only one running play. It was Oct. 22, 1989, against the Patriots. Taylor gained 6 yards on the play.

### Remember When

QB Steve Young's best rushing game was Dec. 23, 1990, against the Saints. He gained 102 yards on eight attempts in a 13-10 loss.

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to the  
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49ers  
and the NFL



**Ted Popson**  
has cleared  
a lot of  
hurdles

... Page 6

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# 49ERS REPORT

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# 49ERS REPORT

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## FROM THE EDITOR

## BAR NONE IS CATCHING

KEVIN  
LYNCH

Did you know this "Bar None" thing applies anywhere? Sure. Got a problem? Just take the "Bar None" attitude and the world opens like an oyster.

We first learned of Bar None last summer. That was when fullback William Floyd's agent declared his client was the "best

fullback in college football, bar none." This, of course, was before Floyd had taken a snap in the professional ranks.

Reporters were immediately reminded of Dexter Carter's declaration when he sauntered to the 49ers' training camp after being chosen in the first round of the 1990 draft. Carter said he was Superman and that he'd go out and prove it.

Instead of leaping linebackers in a single bound, he was stopped fairly easily. Nearly six years later, Carter has suffered the ignominy of being released by the Jets. The self-professed Man of Steel is now a career kick returner.

**MOST FIGURED THE SAME** fate would befall Floyd. He was a little-used fullback at Florida State, and had already been verbally blistered by 49ers' coach George Seifert for being overweight in minicamps.

Despite a bad beginning, Floyd made his agent look like a prophet by the end of the year. He was, indeed, the best fullback — blocking, running, receiving. He was also a born leader. As club president Carmen Policy would say, Floyd had the energy and personality of a huge impact player, with none of the detrimental side effects; side effects raised to an art form by former 49ers running back Ricky Watters.

In just one year Floyd had grown to be one of the most

revered team leaders. And the only name he would answer to was "Bar None."

**"INVINCIBLE" WAS ONE** way to describe Floyd on and off the field — until the Oct. 29 game against the Saints. That's when Floyd had three of major knee ligaments snapped like worn rubber bands. Teammate Steve Wallace submarined him as both players tackled linebacker Rufus Porter after a fumble recovery.

It was a gruesome injury, with Floyd's leg mangled and bent at a sharp angle. Five hours of surgery was needed to repair the medial collateral and posterior cruciate ligaments. Now, a little more than five weeks after the operation, Floyd is striding through the locker room without a limp.

Floyd has dumbfounded the 49ers' medical staff. The formula Floyd applied to his recovery is the same one he used on the field. He was going to be the best rehabilitation subject, bar none. It worked.

"It feels good," said Mr. None. "If it feels this good without an anterior cruciate (ligament), damn. What's it going to feel like when I get one in?"

There's the rub. Floyd needs another lengthy and tricky surgery to repair the third ligament. This one weaves through the knee and is difficult to insert. Floyd has no illusions about his football future. He knows it's in jeopardy pending this second surgery. In fact, Floyd is more guardedly optimistic than team doctor Michael Dillingham.

If the pending operation goes well, Dillingham expects Floyd to be ready for training camp. Floyd is targeting the start of the 1996 season for his return.

Even though the rehabilitation has gone well so far, Floyd is delving more deeply into off-season ventures. He set up a Florida-based corporation (aptly named Bar None Sports)

that handles his appearances, autograph sessions and motivational speeches. He owns another corporation in California (Interactive Sports) that pursues more ambitious projects, like his own interactive CD-ROM program on the 49ers.

Floyd is also dabbling in television commentary. During home games he accompanies Mark Ibanez and Dwight Hicks for KTVU's post-game show.

But his main focus is on getting well. Floyd is at the 49ers' facility as much as the other players, but his struggle is getting his right leg strong so he can endure another surgery.

"I try to keep the guys up and let them know I'm around," Floyd said. "They're my lifeblood, and I'm their lifeblood. We keep each other going. It's all the motivation I need."

**THE BAR NONE PHILOSOPHY** is certainly being applied to Floyd's rehabilitation. But, it's also there in his support for the team from the sidelines.

"I can't be Bar None on the field," Floyd said. "But I can be Bar None in the locker room. That's what I try to do."

There's no trying. Floyd does it. The game in which Floyd got hurt was lost. The Saints prevailed 11-7. After the game, team owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. held a closed-door meeting with just the players. Obviously still depressed over Floyd's injury and missing quarterback Steve Young, the 49ers lost the next game to the Panthers, 13-7. That's when Floyd stepped in. Before the team embarked for Texas to meet the Cowboys, he wrote the team a letter.

"I heard a lot of bickering in the locker room," Floyd said, "about the offense not doing something and the defense not doing something. We won the Super Bowl as a team. We went out there and won together. I told them to go out and win the @#\$%&\* game, and they went out and did it."

Not coincidentally, they haven't stopped. ○

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- 9) Steve Young signed Super Bowl 29 replica helmet. Full size signed in silver, \$169. Super Bowl 29 signed mini helmet, \$119.
- 10) Steve Young signed game model Jerseys, all hand-signed on #8 in blue or black Sharpie. a) White throwback style, \$269. b) Red throwback style, \$289. All throwback Jerseys include 75th anniversary patch. c) Red non-throwback or white non-throwback style with 75th patch, \$239 each. d) '94 Blue style Pro Bowl Jersey, signed \$299.
- 11) Super Bowl 29 game program signed on cover in blue Sharpie by Steve Young, \$75.
- 12) Steve Young signed white panel football, 3 panel, signed in black Sharpie. \$129.

## Signed Best Ever Poster

- 1) Contra Costa Times full color newspaper size poster entitled "Best Ever". Both Steve Young & Jerry Rice have signed these posters in blue Sharpie. \$129 unframed, \$209 framed & matted.

## Joe Montana and Other 49er Items.

- 1) Hand-signed Joe Montana 8x10 color photo, 2 different, \$69 each.
- 2) Hand-signed Joe Montana 16x20 color photo, 2 different, \$89 each.
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- 4) Hand-signed Joe Montana SF 49er game model jersey, \$299.
- 5) Hand-signed Joe Montana NFL game ball signed in silver, \$189.
- 6) William Floyd signed 8x10 color photo, \$20.
- 7) Brent Jones signed 8x10 color photo, \$20.
- 8) John Taylor signed 8x10 color photo, \$20.
- 9) Guy Macintyre or Ricky Watters signed 8x10 photo, \$15.
- 10) Group photo of Montana & Rice, signed by both in blue Sharpie, \$149, 2 poses available.

## Jerry Rice Items.

- 1) Signed 8x10 photo—4 different poses, \$49 each. Signed 8x10 of TD catch #127, \$59.
- 2) Signed 16x20 color photo—3 different poses, \$59 each. Signed 16x20 of TD #127, \$79 each.
- 2a) Hand-signed Super Bowl 23 football, inscribed MVP, \$199.
- 3) Hand-signed NFL game ball, signed in silver by Jerry, \$149 each.
- 4) Hand-signed SF 49er game model helmet signed in blue Sharpie, \$309.
- 5) Hand-signed SF 49er mini helmet—a) Lil Riddell, \$99. b) Sharco, \$119.
- 6) Jerry Rice signed red game model SF 49er Jersey with 75th anniversary patch, signed in black on #80, \$249 each.
- 7) Jerry Rice signed game model champion receiver gloves, both gloves signed in gold. Red or black colored and limited edition #D, \$229 per pair.

## Rice/Young Combo Items

- 1) Rice/Young combo signed game model SF 49er helmet, signed in blue Sharpie by both players, \$369. a) Mini 49er helmet signed by both players, \$169. b) Super Bowl 29 mini helmet signed by both, \$159. c) Super Bowl 29 replica full sized helmet signed by both in silver, \$229.
- 2) Super Bowl 29 football, hand-signed in silver by both players, \$249.
- 3) NFC Championship game, 1/95 game used football, signed by both Rice & Young. Includes letter of authenticity from the 49ers, \$599.
- 4) Group photo of Young & Rice taken on sidelines during Super Bowl 29. Signed by both in blue Sharpie. 3 sizes available: 8x10—\$109, 11x14—\$125, 16x20—\$149.
- 5) Dan Smith Huddle litho. Limited to 1000 lithos, 22x16, hand-signed by artist and Young, \$349, by artist, Young & Rice, \$425.
- 6) Super Bowl 29 game program signed by both Young & Rice. Nine TDs between them, signed in blue Sharpie, \$129.

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# WALLACE OUT INDEFINITELY

Offensive tackle Steve Wallace isn't sure when he'll be back. He injured his right shoulder a month ago, and it hasn't healed.

"They said there's nothing in there to scope," Wallace said, adding that surgery isn't an option.

"I just have to (rest) it," Wallace said.

Wallace made his first start in three games against the Bills on Dec. 3 and quickly discovered the shoulder wasn't responding. While the pain had subsided, there was little strength in the shoulder. That's when center Bart Oates told Wallace he should come out of the game.

"You can't go against (Bills All-Pro defensive end)

Bruce Smith with one arm," Oates said, "or anyone else for that matter."

Oates said it took a bigger man to take himself out of the game if he were hurting the team. Wallace saw the logic and removed himself. The only question that remains is when he'll come back.

"Whenever they let me play," Wallace said.

Kirk Scrafford is Wallace's replacement. Scrafford has good job this season replacing other injured starters on the offensive line. When Wallace comes back healthy,



Steve Wallace

the team might be forced to make its eighth offensive line change of the season.

"I'm not even worried about that right now," offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick said.

Another former starter is returning. Guard Derrick Deese was back at practice after having his left ankle surgically repaired six weeks ago.

Deese doesn't expect to start when he comes back. The team has gone back to rotating Chris Dalman and Rod Milstead at right guard.



John Taylor

## J.T. Shuns Rumor

ESPN commentator Joe Theismann said during the 49ers-Bills game that 49ers wide receiver John Taylor was considering playing one more season.

Taylor has said all year that this will be his last season.

"SOMEBODY SAID to me, 'Are you coming back?'" Taylor explained. "He said he heard that on television, the other night, on ESPN. And I said, 'Well, they put that out wrong.' No, this is it for me."

Citing nagging injuries and a productive 10-year career, Taylor is calling it quits.

"You know it's been the last three or four years," Taylor said. "Injuries started occurring. I had surgeries here and surgeries there. So I said, 'This is about it.'"

Taylor has missed two games this season with assorted bumps, the last time with a hip pointer.

Despite the aches, Taylor would like to get more opportunities in his final year.

"I HAD ANTICIPATED and hoped that I could have gone out with a good year," he said. "That evidently isn't going to happen. All I can say is I'm not seeing the ball."

As of last week, Taylor was the team's fifth-leading receiver with 23 catches for 335 yards and two touchdowns. At this rate, it would be a miracle if Taylor improves his statistics from last year and reached the lucrative incentives in his contract.

Taylor has been open many times, particularly against the Cowboys, but simply wasn't seen.

"I know I can still play," Taylor said. "I know the ability I still have. If you chose not to use it, there's nothing I can say."

## QUARTERBACK SIGNED

The 49ers signed another quarterback last week — Jeff Brohm, formerly of the Chargers.

Brohm is the fourth quarterback the Niners have had this season. In order to get him the club released defensive end Mike Flores. Brohm isn't expected to see much action for the rest of the season, but he'll get a head start on learning the offense and could get an opportunity to make the team in training camp.

"I worked out twice and they said if there was an opportunity to try to sign me, they would," Brohm said.

Brohm spent 1994, his rookie season, with the Chargers. He played college ball at the University of Louisville.

Brohm's signing appar-

ently is no reflection on the health of starter Steve Young, who's still coming back from arthroscopic surgery on his throwing shoulder. Many in the Niners' organization like Brohm and some feared he might get picked up before too long. Many teams are having injury woes at quarterback, including the Raiders and Packers.

### PRACTICE SQUAD

No.	Name	Pos.
45	Michael Williams	DB
52	Antonio Armstrong	LB
93	Ryan Kuehl	DT
95	Herb Coleman	DE
19	Darrick Branch	WR

### INJURED RESERVE

29	Anthony Lynn	RB
40	William Floyd	FB
41	Toi Cook	CB
81	Mike Caldwell	WR

## CONTEST WINNERS

The contest sponsored by the Foghorn Press honoring the 49ers' best 49 Fans was a smashing success. Several winners came to the alumni game against the Bills.

The contest was officially called 49 years of 49ers All-Star Fan Lineup. It was started in conjunction with Foghorn's book, "Forty Niners: 49th Anniversary Collector's Edition."

Winners included an Omaha man who changed his name back in July to "Mr. 49er," a Connecticut woman who believes her psychic powers help the team win, and a Washington man who painted his pregnant wife's stomach to look like a 49ers helmet during the 1994 playoffs.

The most special contestant was Justin Grant, a diehard fan who has leukemia. One of the highlights of his life was meeting Joe Montana.

Here's a listing of the winners: *Khris Bontos*, Lynn, Mass.; *Lancelot Elarionoff*, Newport, R.I.; *Janet Booth*, West Hartford, Conn.; *Vinny Loprotto Jr.*, Clifton N.J.; *Pete Buro*, Somers Point, N.J.; *Karen Heyward*, Cleveland; *Mr. 49er*, Omaha, Neb.; *Ron Berdinsky*, Frisco, Texas; *R.J. Velasquez*, Euless, Texas; *Jonathon Opelt*, Houston; *Jim Cusack*, Katy, Texas; *Janet Forrester*, Reno, Nev.; *Leslee Loren Cicurel*, North Hollywood, Calif.; *Patrick Catanach*, San Diego; *Larry Ross*, Lake Forest, Calif.; *Lyle Stoddard*, Chowchilla, Calif.; *Jim Brown*, Salinas, Calif.; *Sut Chalijs*, Daly City, Calif.; *Justin Grant*, Menlo Park, Calif.; *Willis Knapp*, Portola Valley, Calif.; *Jack Loreaux*, San Bruno, Calif.; *Henry Arata*, San Carlos, Calif.; *Don Dean*, Belmont, Calif.; *Doris Roberson*, San Francisco; *Lido Starelli*, San Francisco; *Harry and Kitten Troutt*, San Francisco; *Frank Sottile*, Antioch, Calif.; *Elizabeth Campbell*, Livermore, Calif.; *Shirley Austin*, Martinez, Calif.; *John Coryell*, San Leandro, Calif.; *James Daveggio*, Union City, Calif.; *Peter Weinberger Jr.*, Richmond, Calif.; *Martin Jacobs*, Rohnert Park, Calif.; *Maureen Kenney*, Novato, Calif.; *Kit Schlich*, Petaluma, Calif.; *Steve Guerrero*, Petaluma, Calif.; *Kenneth Kelly*, Campbell, Calif.; *Albert Mendance*, San Jose, Calif.; *Tim Voss*, San Jose, Calif.; *Mel Micheletti*, San Jose, Calif.; *Jim Pinches*, Laytonville, Calif.; *Frank and Carol Toner*, Eureka, Calif.; *Bill Miller*, Citrus Heights, Calif.; *James Seymour*, Roseville, Calif.; *Diana Olsgrad*, Marysville, Calif.; *Yoshio Fujita*, Honolulu; *Fred Ketcham*, Central Point, Ore.; *Bob Archuleta*, Grants Pass, Ore.; and *Sheldon Buck*, Kennewick, Wash.

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## COACH'S CORNER



GEORGE SEIFERT

## LAST TWO GAMES ARE NO CAKEWALK

**Q. DO YOU STILL THINK YOU CLUB'S BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL?**

**A.** We will play a hot Vikings team on a Monday night. Our last game is against the Falcons in Atlanta. So, yes. It's like the Cowboys. They're going to beat Washington. It's the

Dallas Cowboys and what happens? So you bet we are (against the wall). So we have to focus this week and not worry about anything else, not pay attention to other clubs and pay attention to what's going on.

**Q. HAS THIS BEEN A STRANGE SEASON SO FAR?**

**A.** It's wacky all right. I don't know if it's as weird as it is balanced among the teams. They talk about the parity of the league. It's been demonstrated this season. Particularly when you get expansion teams doing what they've done. Certainly, the cap and free agency has had a dramatic effect.

**Q. ARE THE EXPANSION TEAMS THE MOST SURPRISING?**

**A.** Probably.

**Q. ARE THE LINEBACKERS YOU HAVE NOW THE BEST SET YOU'VE EVER COACHED?**

**A.** Probably so. As a group it's probably about as good as we've ever had, as far as movement, and reading, and

leadership and the whole bit. And we've had some darned good linebackers here. But as far as one whole group, they're playing very well.

**Q. WERE YOU SURPRISED STEVE YOUNG WAS SO UPSET IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE RAMS GAME?**

**A.** No. I wasn't, really. It was his second game back (from an injury) and it was against a tough defense. Steve's very competitive. He had some problems throughout the game. I know he wanted to move the club down and score the touchdown and punch the lights out, so to speak. He was frustrated because he didn't do it. It was good, as I said; he expressed his frustration as opposed to penning it up inside him. It's a tough game and a tough business.

**Q. HOW WELL IS (DEFENSIVE TACKLE) DANA STUBBLEFIELD PLAYING?**

**A.** He's played well as of late. He has played well all year. But in the last two of three games he's gotten pressure on the quarterback.

**Q. ARE YOU SURPRISED AT HOW WELL LEE WOODALL IS PLAYING?**

**A.** I guess, if I was going to be surprised, it would have been more last year by his just coming into this league from a small college (where he was) playing safety and the way he handled the position and the pressure. This year is his next year, so he's playing better. He has that much more of a feel. And next year he'll be better, and the following year he'll be better. Then he's potentially a Pro Bowl player.

**Q. HAS DEREK LOVILLE TURNED OUT TO BE BETTER THAN YOU EXPECTED?**

**A.** My main concern was durability because of the way he plays. His whole body is thrown into the breach. So I've been concerned, and I am concerned. The durability, thus far, has held up. He's played very, very well. I think we thought he'd catch the ball well, that he'd be a tough runner, that he'd give us his all. It was just whether he going to be able to stand up to the pounding and he has taken some pretty good shots this season.

**Q. IS HE ON YOUR FANTASY FOOTBALL TEAM?**

**A.** I have other fantasies.

**Q. HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE THIS DEFENSE AGAINST LAST YEAR'S?**

**A.** This defense is certainly much more big-play orientated. I mean, last year, we made some big plays. But this defense so far has been even better. It's taken it up a notch, as we say. And we've exceeded what we did last season. I thought we played well last year, but this is even that much more in sync. Our linebackers have been together now. The secondary has worked together except for one cornerback (Marquez Pope). Everybody has worked together and it's kind of been paying off. Plus, as I have said, Pete (Carroll) and the other coaches have done a heck of a job putting these guys together. ☺

## Your Unique Treasure From A Unique Coach This Piece Of 49ers History Makes The Perfect Christmas Gift



The Coach

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Bill Walsh, former Head Coach of the San Francisco 49ers, is known by his players and ardent fans as simply, "The Coach". He led the 49ers to three Super Bowl Championships, was named the NFL's Coach of the Decade for the 1980's and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1993.

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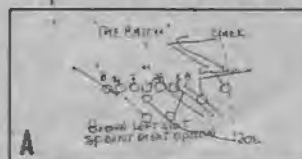
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# ROUGH & ROCKY

That's  
What  
Ted  
Popson's  
Journey  
Was,  
But The  
Rewards  
Were  
Sweet

By Kevin Lynch

There are really just two roads to the NFL. One is by the broad, tree-lined boulevard of the high-round draft choice, where the sidewalks are paved with gold.

The first-rounder gets his picture taken with the coach and general manager on the day of the draft. He usually becomes a millionaire with his first contract, is assured of making the team, and might even be handed a starter's job.

Then there's the winding dirt road on which the late-round choice travels. Even worse is the road of the free agent. Their paths are similar to the one Indiana Jones took to find the Holy Grail in the film "Temple of Doom." Their road is a precarious footpath over a cliff, or a dark, narrow tunnel interrupted by large, viper-infested caverns.

**The last path** is the one 49ers tight end Ted Popson took. He actually fell into his current line of work.

"What, me? Play football?"

That was probably his response shortly after being contacted by his brother after graduation from Truckee High School just outside Lake Tahoe, Calif.

For most of high school years, Popson weighed 145 pounds and stood 5-7. But he sprouted during his senior year. By the time Dwight was calling with his lamebrained idea Ted was up to 6-4 and 215 pounds.

Size was never a problem for Dwight. He was 6-3 and 275 pounds of muscle, forged by frequent trips to the weightroom. Dwight was quite a package, with his arms and back covered in tattoos, a violent streak and a drug habit he couldn't quite kick. By this time, Ted was the only one in the family who would talk to Dwight.

"If Dwight wanted something, he took it," Ted said. "And nobody was going to say anything about it."

Or they might have to be fitted with dentures. What Dwight wanted, Dwight got. He wanted to try out for the football team at the College of Marin, a two-year school, and wanted Ted to do it with him. After much cajoling, Ted agreed.

"I was like, 'OK. Shut up! I'll do it.'"

Ted had played soccer and wrestled in high school and had become a fan of the Steelers during their glory years of the '70s. That's where his knowledge of football began and ended. To shore up his knowledge he got a Sports Illustrated how-to book about the game.

"The book said linebacker was the easiest position to learn," Popson reported.

So he showed up at the junior college with the idea he would become a linebacker. There was no question where Dwight was going to play. With his size and temperament, defensive line was calling his name. And he answered, with a vengeance. By mid-season, Dwight had been terrorizing the community college league, and letters from Division I schools began pouring in.

**Always reluctant** to mix in conventional society, Dwight paid little attention to school developments of any kind. By mid-season, he was booted from the team for not going to class.

Ted, meanwhile, had shown soft hands in practice and moved to tight end before the season started. The Mariners already had a decent tight end, so Ted was on the sideline most of the time.

In Ted's second year, new coach Jim Hickey saw

burgeoning talent in his backup tight end and promoted Ted to starter. Hickey brought in a small quarterback with a big arm named Darren Del Andre. The Mariners, sometimes throwing 75 times a game, often set offensive records, but lost just as often.

"We just couldn't stop anybody," said Hickey, who's now coaching a semi-professional team. "Our defensive guys averaged 180 pounds."

One of Del Andre's main targets was Popson.

"Anytime we ran the ball we ran behind him," Hickey said. "By the end of his second year he was the best junior college tight end in the country."

Ted hardly had a spare moment in those days.

Besides the obligations of football and school Ted worked for a tree service to pay for books and board.

"Yeah, I was pretty busy," Ted understated.

The Mariners were fun and frustrating in equal measure. In Popson's two years they won one game and lost 19. Despite their poor record, Popson had stirred some interest of his own. A number of Division I schools were hungering for his talents.

"I figured it would take me a year to learn the system, and then I'd only have a year to play," Popson said.

**He decided** on Portland State. In fact, he was almost forced to go to PSU after he hocked his '66 Malibu to pay for a recruiting trip there. Popson continued to grow as a player. Unfortunately, brother Dwight continued to get in trouble back home.

"I'd visit him in jail," Ted said.

Dwight was in there with all his cronies. Whenever he went, Dwight was feared and revered. And that included jail.

At the end of two seasons in Portland, Ted had established himself enough to get a few tryouts with NFL teams. He had also broken his foot towards the end of the season, but he didn't want the injury to prevent him from getting an opportunity to compete professionally.

He worked out well for some Giants scouts but managed to re-injure the foot in the process. He figured his shot at pro football was over. But, to his surprise, he was taken in the 11th round of 1991 draft by the Giants.

The ever-earnest Popson tried to hurry back from his foot injury. He reported to camp despite being out his cast for only three weeks. He wore a high-top cleat with a metal sole to protect his atrophied foot. Three weeks into camp, the recovering bones began to separate, and Popson was sent home.

He had gotten his glimpse at pro football. It was something he could tell his kids. But after years of working out and learning the game, the game was not ready to let go of Popson. The World League was organizing. The league called and asked him to attend a mass tryout. With the spark not quite extinguished, Popson went to the tryouts.

"At worst," he said, "it wouldn't be a year in which I was standing around stagnating. There would be some film on me and that type of thing."

He impressed the London Monarchs and was shipped to England for a year. Popson stayed with a group of players stationed at the Sutton Holiday Inn, 45 minutes away from the practice





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facilities.

The hotel served beans and stewed tomatoes for breakfast, and Popson lost 15 pounds during the season. He eventually had to supplement his intake.

After a year's tour he was back in the states, conferring with teams about opportunities.

"I learned to appreciate the U.S. like nobody's business," he said.

**Popson got an invitation** to the 49ers camp in 1993. But competition was a little stiff. Established tight ends Brent Jones, Jamie Williams and Wesley Walls were already occupying the roster. Still, Popson won a place on the practice squad.

That was Popson's toughest year. He was saddled with learning the 49ers' complicated system and the ways of the NFL. He also had to contend with the frustration of being on the practice squad, with its relatively meager salary and "glorified blocking dummy" reputation.

But there was another issue with which Popson had to deal. On Oct. 3, 1993, Dwight Popson was found in Novato dead of a drug overdose.

"I honestly believe if he hadn't of had the problems he had, he might have made it (to the NFL)," Ted said. "He was devastating."

In the last two years, Popson has risen from the practice squad to backup tight end. Last year, a player who was dragged into playing for a laughable College of Marin program won a Super Bowl ring.

And he didn't just win it for himself. He won it for someone else, too. Someone who chose a different path. Someone who got him into playing football in the first place. (C)

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DICK  
DRAPER

# ANCESTORS' COUNTRY ON GRBAC'S MIND

The guns of Bosnia are quiet for the moment, but the graves of the dead are silent forever.

That's the numbing image 49ers quarterback Elvis Grbac has of his parents' beloved Croatia, of a land torn by war and endless strife, a peace promising yet fragile. His relatives are still there,

struggling for survival on primitive farms. While the thunder of mortar shells are far distant (his people are relatively safe from the immediate threat of gunfire) it remains a country at war, and part of Grbac's heart is there.

**THERE ARE PARALLELS** for Elvis between Bosnia and the NFL, but he dismisses the concept. Football is sport. Its battles are sham and entertainment, the conflicts personal but superficial and fleeting. You can get dinged by a hard tackle. A bullet can cost an arm or a life.

Grbac's parents, Ivan and Cecelia of Cleveland, who immigrated to America in 1967, still speak in their native Croatian and they tell their son of hatred within what was Yugoslavia, instilled through generations, of long-ago border checks, and a European mindset of bad blood between neighbors and countrymen that seeps into their souls and never evaporates.

Grbac feels that pain. And he fears for the U.S. soldiers, believing these peacekeepers will walk a thin, mine-filled line between the Muslim-Croats and the Serbs, with danger on either side. Snipers, cowardly hidden, rule there, and now Americans are a new enemy and easy targets. Some will die

in the drizzly chill of winter.

"I truly believe troops are in danger, they really are," said Grbac, whose grandparents on his mother's side still live in the old country, along with dozens of aunts, uncles and his Croatian brethren.

**"KNOWING THE HATRED** between the people, I don't think the peace process will ever stand up."

Grbac's parents came to the U.S. speaking no English and with \$50 in their pockets — Elvis relates a story of how his mother had trouble merely getting milk for his toddler sister, Marla — but now construct English Tudor and colonial homes in Cleveland that would range from \$800,000 to \$2 million in the Bay Area.

Yet his parents still hold dear the customs and conflicts of Croatia, and pass them to their American-born son, the athlete, who speaks only a few fractured phrases in his parents' native tongue. But he hears the words and understands their spirit. He sees how the prejudice and feelings of injustices were spawned.

"They're so ingrained with their ethnic heritage, and all that's a part of my life," explains Grbac, who last visited his ancestors' homeland as a high school student about eight years ago.

**"WHEN I TALK** to my father, he's so one-sided on the Croatian side. It's been like that for years and years, the hatred between the Serbs and the Croats. It's a pride thing."

Elvis was named after Elvis Presley, the gaudily attired monarch of rock and roll. His father reports there are lots of Elvises in Croatia and, besides, it beats a common Jack or John. Grbac's older brother Engelbert? No musical tie-in there. He was named after a German bishop, not singer Engelbert Humperdinck.

While Elvis continues to make a name for himself in the New World, there's no denying his heritage. Ironically, Grbac was recruited by the Naval Academy, and could be in his final year of active duty cruising the European coast — "in the thick of things," he said — aboard an American destroyer, the faraway hazy hills dotted with the green of his family's genealogical trees.

He instead plays before thousands of football fans, none presumably carrying AK-47s.

That's the nagging thought that crosses the border checkpoints in Grbac's mind — from sports, fun and big money to visions of his relatives, people of his blood, still working the earth as their forefathers did, some without hot water or decent food; their country's infrastructure, and hope, destroyed by years of war.

**"THERE ARE THINGS** in my life much more important than football," said Grbac from the safe confines of the 49ers' locker room in Santa Clara. "I have relatives there who are in danger, without even basic necessities."

Good and evil, so often portrayed in the American media as black and white, blur when guns are fired and women and children scramble for their lives, and retaliation becomes yet another perpetual form of malevolence.

"There is such a love-hate relationship," Grbac explained.

Serbs, with genocide and tragedies darkening their paths, are seen as siding with Satan, the rest only victims. Yet Grbac is not blinded by politics or decades of rage.

"Both sides," he said, "are probably doing the same things. That's war. That's how Europe is when it comes to war. It's a different mentality."

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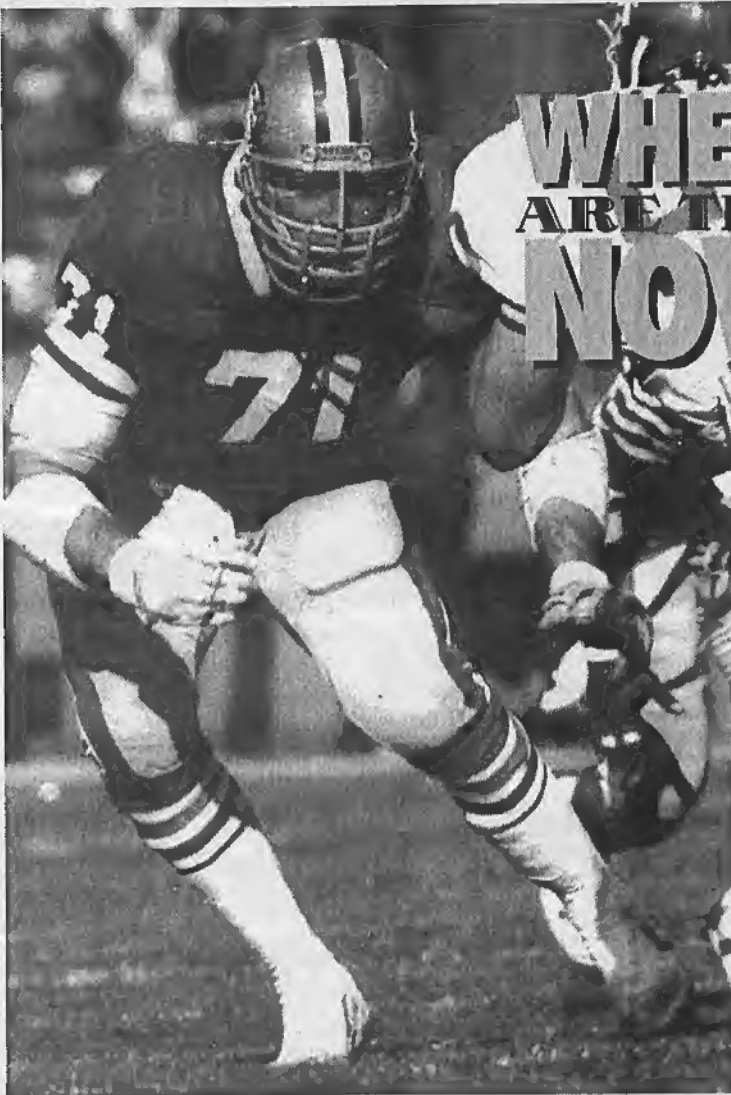
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## OLD-TIME 49ERS



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## YESTERDAY:

Keith Fahnhorst gave the 49ers 14 seasons (1974-87), 10 of them as the starting right offensive tackle ... Converted from tight end after rookie season ... Became a starter in 1977 and missed only three starts in a 157-game stretch ... Third in club history behind Jim Johnson and Len Rhode in both years of service and games played (196) ... Pro Bowl selection in 1984 ... All-Pro in 1983

and '84 ... Drafted by Niners in second round of 1974 ... Native of St. Cloud, Minn. ... Graduate of University of Minnesota, where he caught 28 passes for 416 yards in three-year football career.

## TODAY:

Fahnhorst is a stockbroker for Dain Bosworth Co. in Eden Prairie, Minn. He and his wife, Susan, have three daughters, Tiffany, 16, Brittney, 14, and Courtney, 10.

Fahnhorst also does some color commentary for the Big Ten radio network, which allowed him to watch Northwestern, the league's doormat when Fahnhorst played for the Golden Gophers (and beyond) do a 180-degree turn and earn a trip to the Rose Bowl.

"I could see something last year," Fahnhorst said of the Wildcats. "They still weren't winning, but I thought they were competitive. I knew there was a good team down there."

## MEMORY LANE:

The 49ers saw only one winning record in Fahnhorst's first seven years. Then, almost out of nowhere, came an NFL championship in 1981.

"The turning point that year was the regular-season game against the Cowboys," Fahnhorst said. "We surprised everybody, including ourselves, in that game."

The 49ers, 3-2 at the time, hosted the 4-1 Cowboys, the premier power of the NFC, and whipped them 45-14. The Niners went on to post a 13-3 record and beat the Cowboys again, 28-27, to secure a berth in the Super Bowl.

Fahnhorst played in one more Super Bowl, after the 49ers enjoyed a 15-1 regular-season record in 1984 and were being hailed as one of the best teams in NFL history.

"Both Super Bowls were special," he said. "The first one, I guess, had a little more meaning because the 49ers had been through so much hardship and so many tough times."

Fahnhorst's second Super Bowl was special if for no other reason than his third daughter was born the night before the game.

"The game was just down the road at Stanford University (in Palo Alto), so it wasn't like being away from the family."

## WORDS OF WISDOM:

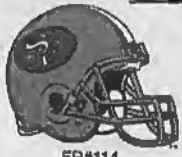
Bill Walsh arrived in 1979 and in three seasons turned a moribund franchise into a dynasty that to this day has yet to relinquish the throne. Fahnhorst was an established veteran when the future Hall of Fame coach was hired.

"Nobody had a better offensive mind than Bill," Fahnhorst said. "He knew what buttons to push on which people to get the most out of a player. We could sense things would be different."

Like stability. Fahnhorst labored for five head coaches in five years before Walsh arrived.

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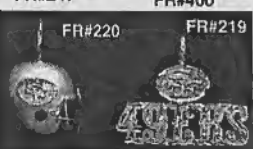
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# Quick Kicks



## ONE ON ONE

WITH  
**JEFF WILKINS**

49ers Report talked with kicker Jeff Wilkins. Since signing, Wilkins hasn't missed a field goal or extra point in his first three games. He also has booted several kickoffs to the end zone. Before signing with the Niners Wilkins was working towards a communications degree at Youngstown State University.

**Q. YOU'RE THE THIRD KICKER THE TEAM HAS USED THIS YEAR. DID YOU SENSE ANY APPREHENSION BY THE PLAYERS ABOUT KICKERS?**

**A.** I couldn't believe it. Everybody went out of his way to say hi. They were real receptive. I thought everybody was going to be real critical, like, geez, here's another one. Kickers, we hate them. But, everyone was real receptive and went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. I think that

made me feel comfortable going into that first game (against the Cowboys). From there on, it's made me more relaxed.

**Q. YOU'RE FIRST FEW KICKS WERE FAIRLY SHORT. DID THAT HELP YOUR CONFIDENCE?**

**A.** I think that helps. Just ease into the situation.

**Q. HAVE BOOMING KICKOFFS BEEN SOMETHING YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE?**

**A.** That was my strong point in college.

**Q. WHAT KIND OF SACRIFICES DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE TO COME HERE, IN TERMS OF SCHOOLWORK?**

**A.** I have a daughter back home, that and school. I thought that if the situation worked out, I'd be able to provide things for my daughter back home. She's 3 1/2 years old.

**Q. WHAT ARRANGEMENTS DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE FOR SCHOOL?**

**A.** I basically have to take incompletes (in the grading). YSU is on the quarter system,

and I was half way through the quarter. If you were getting good grades they sometimes let you take incompletes. Some (teachers) make you pick up where you left off, others make you take the whole class again.

**Q. ARE YOU RENTING?**

**A.** People kept asking, "Where are you staying (Wilkins is living in a hotel)." I finally got a car to drive around. Week by week I'll move in a little bit more. It's a rental.

**Q. HOW DO YOU LIKE THE BAY AREA?**

**A.** Oh, I love it. It's a winning team, a winning tradition. The weather is great. Back home it's 30 degrees and snowing. I love it so far. Everybody has been great. I'm just having a ball.

**Q. DO YOU THINK ALL YOUR PROFESSORS GET TOGETHER AND WATCH THE GAME?**

**A.** I don't know. When I found out I had a workout I had to go in and tell one teacher I had a workout with the 49ers. He was probably thinking, "Sure, buddy. There's another (excuse)."

## December Birthdays

CB Toi Cook	Dec 5
RB Ricky Ervins	Dec 7
FB Jamal Willis	Dec 12
Bo Pellini	Dec 13
C Bart Oates	Dec 16
RB Anthony Lynn	Dec 21
OT Steve Wallace	Dec 27
Bobb McKittrick	Dec 29

## HE'S A UTE

Coach George Seifert and quarterback Steve Young have a friendly rivalry going. Young went to Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, and Seifert attended the University of Utah in nearby Provo.

Utah beat BYU this year, 31-17. Seifert had a picture taken of the scoreboard after the game, and doctored the photograph so the message on the scoreboard read, "Sorry, Steve. Maybe next year."

Because his school lost, Young also agreed to become a member of the Utah Alumni Football Association. His contribution allows him special parking on game days, something Young isn't likely to use.

## THE HIT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

Everyone was still buzzing last week after linebacker's Gary Plummer's remarkable hit on Darick Holmes, the Bills' fullback.

Holmes fumbled and linebacker Lee Woodall picked up the ball and ran 96 yards for a touchdown. The game turned on the play, as the score had been tied at the time.

Plummer's blow was even mentioned by Cowboys head coach Barry Switzer on his Monday meeting the press last week.

"Did you see that hit by Plummer last night?" Switzer said. "I mean Blam! It was a Dick Butkus type hit. We don't have players like that."

## THE ANSWER MAN

Every week, linebacker Gary Plummer answers fans questions in the San Jose Mercury News. Here's his take on the fines now being levied against defensive players for rough hits, especially on quarterbacks:

"Fines seem to be the current rage in the NFL. Funny isn't it? Violence sells in the NFL, yet the league's trying to curb it. This is a violent game, and if you don't enjoy it, go play baseball."

Got any more questions, Pal?



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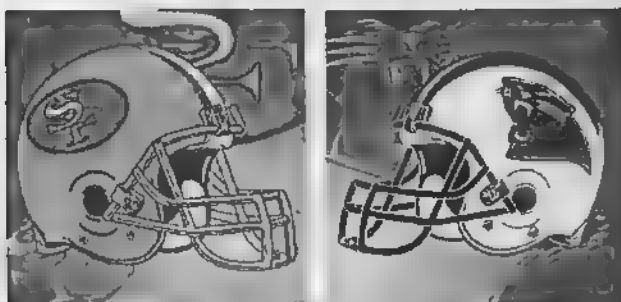




# SOMETHING IN THE BARGAIN

## Victory and Cowboys' Loss Put 49ers At Head Of Class

### 49ERS at PANTHERS



	1	2	3	4	F
49ERS	7	14	7	3	31
PANTHERS	0	3	7	0	10

#### 49ERS

Win fifth straight for 10-4 record

#### PANTHERS

Drop to 6-8

#### STEVE YOUNG

31-of-45 passing, 336 yards, 2 touchdowns

#### KERRY COLLINS

12-of-29 passing, 127 yards, 0 touchdowns

#### JERRY RICE

6 receptions, 121 yards

#### DEREK LOVILLE

2 TDs (1 run, 1 reception)

#### 49ERS

Can clinch NFC West title this weekend

By Kevin Lynch

CLEMSON, S.C. — Football boils down to certain fundamentals, which offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick crystalized in his explanation of the 49ers' 31-10 victory over the Panthers last Sunday.

"If you pick up the blitz, you win," McKittrick said. "If you don't, you don't win most of the time."

The Niners' offensive line, for the most part, picked up the Panthers' blitzes remarkably well. They walled off blitzers from quarterback Steve Young, which enabled him to throw for 336 yards on 31-of-45 passing, including two touchdowns and an interception.

IT WAS YOUNG'S BEST day since his return from arthroscopic shoulder surgery on Nov. 13. The offensive performance handed the 49ers their fifth straight victory. Suddenly, they're in the driver's seat.

The triumph, coupled with the Cowboys' 20-17 loss to the Eagles, put the 49ers in the lead for the NFC's homefield advantage throughout the playoffs. A collective roar rose up from the locker room after the final score of the Cowboys game was made official.

When the 49ers lost to the Panthers, 13-7, six weeks ago at Candlestick Park, some wondered if the Niners would even make the playoffs. They wonder no longer.

"We tried to go there and shock the world," offensive tackle Harris Barton said of the team's attitude just before their 38-20 win over the Cowboys, "and that's what we continue to do."

The Panthers were set on shocking the 49ers once again with their myriad of blitzes. Niners offensive linemen had nightmares last week after viewing film of the Panthers' seven-sack performance against the Colts.

"We studied (blitzes) more this week than we had all year long," guard Rod Milstead said. "We had meetings with Bobb (McKittrick) we came to early, and we left an hour after everyone else left."

The Panthers bring blitzes from all sides, and they mix it up with surprising variety.

"RUNNING THEIR DEFENSE is like running our offense," Barton said. "It takes smart players. Their coaches do an outstanding job."

It looked as if the 49ers were going to get outcoached in the early going. The Panthers, behind 7-0, sent inside linebacker Sam Mills on a blitz on which he first delayed, acting as if he were dropping into coverage. Then he looped around the left tackle and guard on what amounted to a stunt blitz. The unsuspecting Niners didn't lay a glove on Mills as he lit into quarterback Steve Young. Mills batted



Tim McDonald intercepted his fourth pass of the season.

the ball from Young and then pounced on it. It was a blitz the Panthers haven't used much this season.

"That blitz (by Mills) in the first quarter was so well-timed," guard Jesse Sapolu said. "It was impossible for us to block what they showed us."

BUT MCKITTRICK found a way. He tinkered with the line and told left tackle Kirk Scrafford and left guard Jesse Sapolu what to do.

"Bobb is just the master of the sideline adjustment," Barton said.

The Panthers continued to send Mills, but the 49ers were prepared and thwarted him.

"We scored a touchdown on that play later in the game," Sapolu said.

The Panthers had knocked Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh out of the game the week before with their seven sacks. In this game they got to Young just three times. They

W31-10



also leveled him several times, once on a long pass to Jerry Rice in the third quarter. Twice Young was pummeled on other occasions.

**SAFETY BRETT MAXIE** floored him in the second quarter. Young was then knocked silly on a quarterback sneak in the third quarter. On the same drive he got sandwiched between defensive tackle Mike Fox and linebacker Lamar Lathon. One play later, Young plunged into the end zone on another quarterback sneak.

It was just more grist to be added to the mill of Young's legendary toughness. In fact, Young is so tough his offensive linemen refuse to worry about him.

"I really don't look (to see if Young is hurt)," Sapolu said. "That's what makes this game special and makes Steve Young special."

Sapolu is one of the few offensive linemen who believes the league is dealing with defensive linemen too harshly. He's not necessarily in favor of policy that slaps defensive players with huge fines for hits on the quarterback.

"You want to make sure that not any Tom, Dick and Harry can play this game," Sapolu said. "A million quarterbacks want No. 8's job. There's a reason why he has it."

The reason for Sapolu is toughness.

"What you need to do is get off the turf and make plays," said Young, who left the locker room with a strained neck.

Young wasted no time making plays on the opening drive. Sensing that cornerback Tim McKyer was taking Jerry Rice man-for-man, Young called an audible and sent tight end Brent Jones across the middle so the safety would follow. He then sent Rice deep down the sideline and hit him with a picture-perfect pass for a 46-yard gain.

Running back Derek Loville took a swing pass a few plays later and snuck into the end zone from 4 yards out. It was Loville's fifth straight game of scoring at least one touchdown.

The Panthers look like they might answer behind the tough inside running of Derrick Moore, who was cut by the Niners in training camp. The Panthers' huge line hammered the 49ers. Defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield was so frustrated he threw one Panthers' lineman to the ground by the lineman's facemask. A referee nailed him with a 15-yard personal foul penalty to put the Panthers at the 49ers' 11.

They later had first and goal at the 1. The film of linebacker Gary Plummer's fumble-causing hit on Bills runner Darick Holmes was undoubtedly in the heads of Panthers coaches. Holmes was at the 49ers' 1 when Plummer laddled him, forcing a fumble and a subsequent 96-yard return for a touchdown by linebacker Lee Woodall. In order to avoid Plummer, the Panthers rolled rookie quarterback Kerry Collins for a pass.

Collins, after being harassed by elephant linebacker Rickey Jackson, threw prematurely. His mistake was intercepted by Tim McDonald and returned to the 49ers' 35 — yet another big play by the 49ers' defense in 1995.

The play silenced the only capacity crowd the Panthers have drawn to Clemson Stadium in this, their first, NFL season. The 49ers rode their own momentum one drive later — 80 yards in 10 plays. Young completed six of eight passes on the drive for 71 of those yards.

**THE BEST PLAY** was a 36-yarder to Rice, who went over former teammate McKyer to make a sparkling catch.

"Tim was getting in position for the interception," Rice said. "I just went over him."

The play set up Loville again, who danced in from a yard away for his second touchdown on the afternoon.

The prior reception by Rice gave him 101 yards in the first half alone, most coming against McKyer. The cocky defensive back was the hero in the Panthers' Nov. 5 upset. He intercepted an Elvis Grbac pass and returned it 96 yards for what turned out to be the deciding touchdown.

"Tim is Tim," Rice said. "He likes to talk a lot of trash out there. That's not me, but I have a lot of respect for him."

McKyer probably wasn't shy about bringing up his 96-yard jaunt to Rice in this game. Rice responded with his play, catching six passes for 121 yards. It was his seventh 100-yard plus receiving game of this season.

The score put the 49ers up 14-0. After John Kasay hit a 43-yard field goal, the 49ers responded with a 70-yard drive to close out the half. The touchdown was vintage Young. His first two receivers were not open on the left side

of the field. With the rush bearing down on him, Young then shifted quickly to the right and found J.J. Stokes wide open for a 20-yard scoring strike.

The 49ers continued to score in the second half, but they took their time. The third-quarter death march consumed eight minutes and 39 seconds and took 14 plays. Young punctuated the drive himself with a quarterback sneak from a yard out.

The 31 points against the Panthers at home was a tremendous effort. In the Panthers' four-game home winning streak, opponents averaged just 8.7 points per game.

**THE 49ERS** did it with an excellent game plan. Instead of using lots of motion and multiple formations, they went with their base offense for most the game. They also kept in the backs and tight ends, which is uncommon for them.

"They (the Panthers) do a great job with their blitzes," offensive coordinator Marc Trestman said. "But if you can get them in the right position, you can get some big plays."

It was something the 49ers did with regularity on Sunday. ☺

## WORTH NOTING

**RICE FACTS:** Jerry Rice needs 19 catches to surpass Art Monk's all-time NFL record of 934 receptions. He needs three to reach 100 for the season.

**TEN AGAIN:** The 49ers extended their NFL-record streak of consecutive double-digit victory seasons to 13.

**CHILLER THEATER:** The last time the 49ers played in cold weather was Dec. 9, 1990, in Cincinnati. It was 34 degrees with a windchill factor of 15 at game time Sunday.

**DECEMBER HEAT:** Steve Young, in December games over the last two years, is 139-of-196 passing (74 percent) for 1,610 yards 11 touchdowns, and four interceptions. Over the same span WR Jerry Rice has caught 41 passes for 543 yards and three TDs. The 49ers are 35-8 in December since 1985.

**PAYDIRT:** RB Derek Loville has touchdowns in five consecutive games.

**VERY SUPERSTITIOUS:** Since the 49ers played the Rams on Oct. 22, they have practiced the day before the game at a high school field. The Rams had a marching band contest that forced the Niners to a high school field. They have practiced at one on every road trip since then.

**WRONG-WAY MIKE:** Team doctor Michael Dillingham mistakenly went to Greenville, N.C., instead of Greenville, S.C. He had to drive some 350 miles to get to the team hotel on Saturday.

**INACTIVES:** Not in uniform on Sunday were G Derrick Deese, G Tim Hanshaw, WR Nate Singleton, QB Jeff Brohm, FB Brian O'Neal, TE Ted Popson, DT Oliver Barnett. Popson was held out because of the flu.

**MOON OVER GREENVILLE:** Patrons at a local bar exposed their buttocks to the 49ers' buses as they motored in from the airport in Greenville. The assumption was they weren't from a local welcoming committee.

**EYE OPENER:** The last time the 49ers played the Panthers it took them 46 minutes and 13 seconds to score their only touchdown. It took them 4:13 to score in Sunday's game.

**LOVILLIAN RECORD:** RB Derek Loville tied Ricky Watters' 1993 team record for rushing touchdowns with 10. He had two in the Panthers' game.

**WALLACE BETTER:** OT Steve Wallace didn't start, but played towards the end of the game. Wallace missed the previous three games with a shoulder injury. "The last three and a half weeks there was no improvement at all," Wallace said. "Last week it (the improvement) doubled. I'm almost back to normal, and it creates confidence."

**YOUNG ATTEMPTS:** Young broke his own club record for pass attempts in one game with 45. His previous high was 44 set the previous week against the Bills.

**INJURIES:** The most grave injury was a sprained knee suffered by RB Jamal Willis. He's listed questionable. The rest of the injured Niners are probable for Monday night's game against the Vikings — CB Art Oates (elbow), G Rod Minstead (neck), OT Kirk Scraftford (ribs), QB Steve Young (ribs), G Chris Dalman (neck), S Daryll Hall (lacerated lip) and QB Elvis Grbac (neck strain).

# 49ERS REPORT PRESENTS



## PLAYER OF THE GAME

### Steve Young

*"With his 336 yards passing, two touchdowns and one interception, quarterback Steve Young won the 49ers Report Player of the Game."*

*It was Young's third 300-yard passing game of the season, and first since September.*

*"My accuracy isn't all there, but it's coming," said Young, who's still recovering from an injured throwing shoulder. "I think I'm getting in mid-season form. That's perfect for December."*

## HOW THEY SCORED

### FIRST QUARTER

**49ERS** — Derek Loville 4-yard pass from Steve Young (Jeff Wilkins kick). Drive: 7 plays, 65 yards. Time of possession: 3:15. Time remaining: 10:47. Key play: Jerry Rice 46 pass from Young. 49ERS 7-0.

### SECOND QUARTER

**49ERS** — Loville 1-yard run (Wilkins kick). Drive: 10 plays, 80 yards. Time of possession: 3:51. Time remaining: 5:10. Key play: Rice 36 pass from Young. 49ERS 14-0.

**PANTHERS** — John Kasay 43-yard field goal. Drive: 6 plays, 26 yards. Time of possession: 2:23. Time remaining: 2:22. Key plays: Don Beebe 33 kickoff return; Eric Guilford 29 pass from Kerry Collins. 49ERS 14-3.

**49ERS** — J.J. Stokes 20-yard pass from Young (Wilkins kick). Drive: 9 plays, 70 yards. Time of possession: 1:52. Time remaining: :30. Key play: Young 13 run. 49ERS 21-3.

### THIRD QUARTER

**PANTHERS** — Derrick Moore 2-yard run (Kasay kick). Drive: 5 plays, 25 yards. Time of possession: 1:57. Time remaining: 11:43. Key plays: Sam Mills 2 interception return; Guilford 25 pass from Collins. 49ERS 21-10.

**49ERS** — Young 1-yard run (Wilkins kick). Drive: 14 plays, 66 yards. Time of possession: 8:39. Time remaining: 3:07. Key play: Stokes 23 pass from Young. 49ERS 28-10.

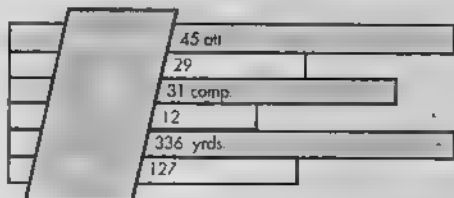
### FOURTH QUARTER

**49ERS** — Wilkins 20-yard field goal. Drive: 15 plays, 63 yards. Time of possession: 5:26. Time remaining: 10:38. Key play: John Taylor 14 pass from Young. 49ERS 31-10.

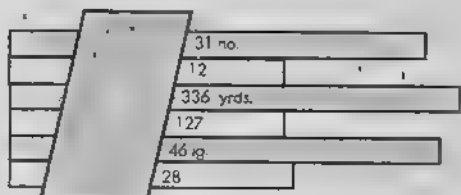


## GAME STATS

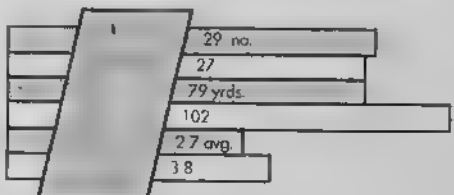
PASSING	Att	Comp	Yds	Sks/Yds	TD	Lg	Int
49ers							
Young	45	31	336	3/14	2	45	1
Grbac	2	0	0	0/0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>
Panthers							
Collins	29	12	127	1/8	0	28	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1/8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>



RECEIVING	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Jones	7	51	11	0
Loville	7	42	11	1
Rice	6	121	46	0
Taylor	5	52	13	0
Stokes	3	52	24	1
Thomas	1	10	10	0
Carter	1	4	4	0
Walker	1	4	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>
Panthers				
Johnson	5	39	13	0
Green	3	46	19	0
Guliford	2	30	28	0
Christian	2	12	8	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>



RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
49ers					
Loville	16	34	2.1	7	1
Young	2	21	4.2	13	1
Carter	6	19	3.2	15	0
Walker	1	6	6.0	6	0
Grbac	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>
Panthers					
Moore	9	28	3.1	5	1
Johnson	7	22	3.1	9	0
Christian	4	16	4.0	5	0
Thomas	1	8	8.0	8	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>



INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
McDonald	1	35	35	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>
Panthers				
Mills	1	3	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Willis	1	28	28	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>
Panthers				
Beebe	3	72	38	0
Stone	3	71	25	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
49ers						
Thompson	3	120	40.0	1	0	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>
Panthers						
Barnhardt	5	186	37.2	1	1	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers					
Carter	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Panthers					
Carrier	1	0	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Panthers
Total First Downs	26	12
By Rushing	5	5
By Penalty	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	10-16-63%	4-12-33%
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0-0%	0-2-00%
Total Net Yards	401	195
Total Offensive Plays	79	76
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.1	3.7
Net Yards Rushing	79	76
Total Rushing Plays	29	23
Avg. Gain Per Rushing Play	2.7	3.3
Net Yards Passing	322	119
Times Thrown/Yards Lost	3-14	1-8
Gross Yards Passing	336	127
Pass Att. Comp. Int.	47-31-1	29-12-1
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	6.4	4.0
Punts/Average	3-40	5-37.2
Had Blocked	0	0
Yards on Punt Returns	0	0
Yards on Kickoff Returns	47	143
Yards on Interception Returns	35	3
Penalties/Yards	6-46	4-35
Fumbles/Lost	2-1	0-0
Touchdowns	4	1
Rushing	2	1
Passing	2	0
Returns	0	0
Extra points Made/Attempted	4/4	1/1
Kicking Made/Attempts	4/4	1/1
Passing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Rushing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Field Goals Made/Attempted	1/1	1/1
Time of Possession	35:28	24:32

## SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Opponents
Total First Downs	313	227
By Rushing	98	44
By Passing	200	165
By Penalty	15	12
Third Down Made/Att.	92/192	79/198
Third Down Efficiency	47.9	39.9
Fourth Down Made/Att.	10/15	7/18
Fourth Down Efficiency	66.7	38.9
Total Net Yards	5186	3771
Avg. Per Game	370.4	269.4
Total Offensive Plays	956	881
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.4	4.3
Net Yards Rushing	1345	973
Avg. Per Game	96.1	69.5
Total Rushing Plays	373	315
Net Yards Passing	3835	2841
Avg. Per Game	283.5	202.9
Sacks/Yards Lost	30/164	34/206
Gross Yards Passing	3997	3047
Att./Comp.	550/370	532/282
Pct. of Completions	67.3	53.0
Had Intercepted	13	26
Punts/Average	51/40.4	59/40.8
Penalties/Yards	76/585	65/484
Fumbles/Lost	17/10	20/8
Touchdowns	49	20
Rushing	17	5
Passing	25	13
Returns	7	2

SCORING	Name	TDR	TDP	TDR/PAT	FG	S	2pt	TP
	Rice	1	12	0	0	0	0	80
	Loville	9	3	0	0	0	0	72
	Brien	0	0	0	19	7	0	40
	Wilkins	0	0	0	22	9	0	49
	Jones	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
	Floyd	2	1	0	0	0	0	18
	Stokes	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
	McDonald	0	0	2	0	0	0	12
	Taylor	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
	Norton	0	0	2	0	0	0	12
	Grbac	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Young	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Zendejas	0	0	0	5	1	0	8
	Singleton	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
	Walker	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Hanks	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
	Davis	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
	Woodall	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>393</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>

RECEIVING	Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Rice	97	1406	14.5	81	12
	Loville	76	609	7.9	31	3
	Floyd	47	348	7.4	23	1
	Jones	53	527	9.9	39	3
	Taylor	28	387	13.8	40	2
	Stokes	25	338	13.5	26	3
	Popson	16	128	8.0	16	0
	Singleton	8	108	13.5	23	1
	Walker	9	69	7.7	15	0
	Willis	3	8	2.7	5	0
	Thomas	4	47	11.8	23	0
	Ervin	2	21	10.5	11	0
	Carter	1	4	4.0	4	0
	Carolan	1	3	3.0	3	0
	Dalman	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>3997</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>3047</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>

RUSHING	Name	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Loville	191	640	3.4	27	9
	Floyd	64	237	3.7	23	2
	Young	39	218	5.6	29	2
	Ervin	23	88	3.8	13	0
	Walker	12	44	3.7	18	1
	Willis	12	35	2.9	15	0
	Grbac	20	33	1.7	11	2
	Rice	4	26	6.5	20	1
	Carter	6	19	3.2	15	0
	Lynn	1	5	5.0	5	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>

PASSING	Name	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	Avg/Att	TD	%TD	Int	%Int	Lg	Lost/Att
	Young	364	238	2459	66.4	6.8	17	4.7	9	2.5	54	21/106
	Grbac	183	127	1469	69.4	8.0	8	4.4	4	2.2	81	7/40
	Conklin	12	4	48	33.3	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	2/20
	Taylor	1	1	21	100.0	21.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	0/0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>3997</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>30/162</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>3047</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34/206</b>

FIELD GOALS	Name	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
	Brien	0/0	4/4	0/1	2/6	1/1	1/12
	Zendejas	0/0	0/0	1/3	0/0	0/0	1/3
	Wilkins	1/1	4/4	3/3	1/2	0/0	9/10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>8/8</b>	<b>4/7</b>	<b>3/8</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>17/25</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>8/10</b>	<b>6/8</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>21/26</b>

PUNTING	Name	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
	Thompson	51	2058	40.4	5	11	65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2058</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>65</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2468</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>55</b>

PUNT RETURNS	Name	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Taylor	10	9	55	5.5	11	0
	Singleton	5	1	27	5.4	19	0
	Carter	4	4	38	9.5	21	0
	Thomas	1	0	25	25.0	25	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>

KICKOFF RETURNS	Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Willis	17	427	25.1	39	0
	Carter	10	211	21.1	29	0
	Warren	8	177	22.2	35	0
	Ervin	4	18	4.5	13	0
	Thomas	3	49	16.3	20	0
	Dalman	3	29	9.7	12	0
	Caldwell	2	40	20.0	20	0
	Walker	1	17	17.0	17	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Opp. Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>

**Sacks:** Jackson (7.5), B. Young (5), Stubblefield (4.5), Harris (4), Woodall (3), Williams (3), Drakeford (1), Davis (1), Barnett (1), Fountaine (1), Bryant (1), Norton (1).



# 1995

# NFL SCHEDULE

## STANDINGS

### AFC

#### East

	W	L	PF	PA
Bills	9	5	310	287
Colts	8	6	297	282
Dolphins	7	6	324	281
Patriots	6	8	260	326
Jets	3	11	230	346

#### Cent.

	W	L	PF	PA
Steelers	10	4	347	276
Bengals	6	8	312	324
Oilers	5	9	297	301
Browns	4	10	242	322
Jaguars	3	11	251	339

#### West

	W	L	PF	PA
Chiefs	11	2	306	208
Raiders	8	6	310	257
Broncos	7	7	340	297
Chargers	7	7	267	282
Seahawks	7	7	316	330

### NFC

#### East

	W	L	PF	PA
Cowboys	10	4	377	258
Eagles	9	5	283	298
Giants	5	9	253	292
Cardinals	4	10	242	364
Redskins	4	10	271	319

#### Cent.

	W	L	PF	PA
Packers	9	5	346	272
Vikings	8	6	358	321
Lions	8	6	355	326
Bears	7	7	341	336
Buccaneers	7	7	218	267

#### West

	W	L	PF	PA
49ers	10	4	393	200
Falcons	8	6	317	301
Rams	7	7	264	342
Panthers	6	8	251	288
Saints	6	8	284	314

## American Football Conference

BILLS	9-5	COLTS	8-6	DOLPHINS	7-6	JETS	3-11	PATRIOTS	6-8
Sept 3 at Denver	7-22	Sept 3 Cincinnati	21-24 OT	Sept 3 NY Jets	52-14	Sept 3 at Miami	14-52	Sept 3 Cleveland	17-14
Sept 10 Carolina	31-9	Sept 10 at NY Jets	27-24 OT	Sept 10 at New England	20-3	Sept 10 Indianapolis	24-27 OT	Sept 10 at Miami	17-20
Sept 17 Indianapolis	20-14	Sept 17 at Buffalo	14-20	Sept 17 Pittsburgh	23-10	Sept 17 Jacksonville	27-10	Sept 17 at San Francisco	17-24
Sept 24 OPEN		Sept 24 OPEN		Sept 24 OPEN		Sept 24 at Atlanta	3-19	Sept 24 OPEN	
Oct 2 at Cleveland	22-19	Oct 2 at Cincinnati	21-18	Oct 2 at Cincinnati	26-23	Oct 2 Oakland	10-47	Oct 2 at Atlanta	17-10
Oct 6 NY Jets	29-10	Oct 6 at Miami	27-24 OT	Oct 6 Indianapolis	24-27 OT	Oct 6 at Buffalo	10-29	Oct 6 at Denver	17-10
Oct 15 Seattle	27-21	Oct 15 San Francisco	18-17	Oct 15 at New Orleans	30-13	Oct 15 at Carolina	15-26	Oct 15 at Kansas City	16-10
Oct 23 at New England	13-27	Oct 22 at Oakland	17-30	Oct 22 at NY Jets	16-17	Oct 22 at Miami	17-16	Oct 23 Buffalo	17-13
Oct 29 at Miami	6-23	Oct 29 NY Jets	17-10	Oct 29 Buffalo	23-6	Oct 29 at Indianapolis	10-17	Oct 29 Carolina	17-20
Nov 5 at Indianapolis	16-10	Nov 5 Buffalo	10-16	Nov 5 at San Diego	24-14	Nov 5 New England	20	Nov 5 at NY Jets	24
Nov 12 at Atlanta	23-17	Nov 12 at New Orleans	14-17	Nov 12 New England	17-34	Nov 12 OPEN		Nov 12 at Miami	4-27
Nov 19 at NY Jets	28-26	Nov 19 at New England	24-10	Nov 20 San Francisco	20-44	Nov 19 Buffalo	20-28	Nov 19 at Kansas City	15-13
Nov 26 New England	25-35	Nov 26 Miami	36-28	Nov 26 at Indianapolis	28-36	Nov 26 at Seattle	16-10	Nov 26 at Pittsburgh	15-17
Dec 3 at San Francisco	17-27	Dec 3 at Carolina	10-13	Dec 3 Atlanta	21-20	Dec 3 St. Louis	23-23	Dec 3 New York Jets	27-31
Dec 10 at St. Louis	45-27	Dec 10 at Jacksonville	41-31	Dec 10 Kansas City		Dec 10 at New England	28-31	Dec 10 at Pittsburgh	
Dec 17 Miami		Dec 17 San Diego		Dec 17 at Buffalo		Dec 17 at Houston		Dec 17 at Pittsburgh	
Dec 24 Houston		Dec 24 New England		Dec 24 at St. Louis		Dec 24 New Orleans		Dec 24 at Pittsburgh	

## National Football Conference

CARDINALS	4-10	COWBOYS	10-4	EAGLES	9-5	GIANTS	5-9	REDSKINS	4-10
Sept 3 at Washington	7-27	Sept 3 at NY Giants	35-0	Sept 3 Tampa Bay	6-21	Sept 3 at Dallas	17-15	Sept 3 at Atlanta	17-14
Sept 10 Philadelphia	19-31	Sept 10 Denver	31-21	Sept 10 at Arizona	31-19	Sept 10 at Kansas City	17-23 OT	Sept 10 Oakland	17-14
Sept 17 at Detroit	20-17	Sept 17 at Minnesota	23-17 OT	Sept 17 San Diego	21-27	Sept 17 at Houston	6-14	Sept 17 at Tampa Bay	17-10
Sept 24 at Dallas	20-34	Sept 24 at Arizona	23-17 OT	Sept 24 at New Orleans	17-48	Sept 24 Philadelphia	4-7	Sept 24 at Tampa Bay	17-10
Oct 1 Kansas City	3-24	Oct 1 at Washington	23-27	Oct 1 at New Orleans	15-10	Oct 1 at Seattle	34-13	Oct 1 at Philadelphia	34-27 OT
Oct 8 at NY Giants	21-27 OT	Oct 8 Green Bay	34-24	Oct 8 Washington	37-34 OT	Oct 8 at San Francisco	27-10 OT	Oct 8 at Philadelphia	34-27 OT
Oct 15 Washington	24-20	Oct 15 at San Diego	23-9	Oct 15 at NY Giants	17-14	Oct 15 Philadelphia	14-17	Oct 15 at Atlanta	30-17
Oct 22 OPEN		Oct 22 OPEN		Oct 22 JPN		Oct 22 at Washington	24-15	Oct 22 at NY Jets	15-4
Oct 29 Seattle	20-14 OT	Oct 29 at Atlanta	28-13	Oct 29 St. Louis	20-9	Oct 29 at Washington	24-15	Oct 29 at NY Jets	15-4
Nov 5 at Philadelphia	6-38	Nov 5 Philadelphia	34-12	Nov 5 at Dallas	12-34	Nov 5 at Seattle	28-30	Nov 5 at Kansas City	17-10
Nov 12 Minnesota	24-30 OT	Nov 12 San Francisco	20-38	Nov 12 Denver	31-13	Nov 12 Oakland	13-7	Nov 12 at Tampa Bay	20-17
Nov 19 at Carolina	7-27	Nov 19 at Oakland	34-21	Nov 19 NY Giants	28-19	Nov 19 at Philadelphia	24-27	Nov 19 Philadelphia	20-17
Nov 26 Atlanta	40-37 OT	Nov 23 Kansas City	24-12	Nov 26 at Washington	14-7	Nov 26 Chicago	24-27	Nov 26 Philadelphia	20-17
Dec 3 NY Giants	6-10	Dec 3 Washington	17-24	Dec 3 at Seattle	14-26	Dec 3 at Tampa Bay	10-29	Dec 3 at Tampa Bay	10-29
Dec 10 at San Diego	25-28	Dec 10 at Philadelphia	17-20	Dec 10 Arizona	20-17	Dec 10 Washington	20-17	Dec 10 at Tampa Bay	10-29
Dec 17 at Philadelphia		Dec 17 NY Giants		Dec 17 Arizona		Dec 17 at Dallas		Dec 17 at Tampa Bay	
Dec 24 at Dallas		Dec 25 at Arizona		Dec 24 at Chicago		Dec 23 San Diego		Dec 24 at Tampa Bay	





3	Thompson, Tommy	P
6	Conklin, Cary	QB
8	Young, Steve	QB
11	Brohm, Jeff	QB
14	Wilkin, Jeff	K
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB
20	Loville, Derek	RB
22	Drakeford, Tyrone	CB
23	Pope, Marquez	CB
24	Willis, Jamal	RB
25	Davis, Eric	CB
26	O'Neal, Brian	FB
27	Walker, Adam	RB
31	Israel, Steve	CB
32	Ervins, Ricky	RB
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S
35	Carter, Dexter	RB
36	Hanks, Merton	S
43	Hall, Darryl	CB
46	McDonald, Tim	S
50	Plummer, Gary	LB
51	Norton Jr, Ken	LB
53	Peterson, Anthony	LB
54	Woodall, Lee	LB
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB
57	Jackson, Rickey	DE
61	Sapolu, Jesse	G
63	Deese, Derrick	G
66	Oates, Bart	C
67	Dalman, Chris	G-C
69	Milstead, Rod	G
72	Barnett, Oliver	DE
74	Wallace, Steve	OT
75	Pollack, Frank	OT
76	Scrafford, Kirk	OT-G
77	Hanshaw, Tim	G
78	Brandon, Michael	DE
79	Barton, Harris	OT
80	Rice, Jerry	WR
82	Taylor, John	WR
83	Stokes, J.J.	WR
84	Jones, Brent	TE
85	Popson, Ted	TE
86	Carolan, Brett	TE
88	Singleton, Nate	WR
89	Thomas, Chris	WR
90	Bryant, Junior	DE
91	Williams, Alfred	DE
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DT
96	Brown, Dennis	DE
97	Young, Bryant	DT
98	Goss, Antonio	LB
99	Harris, Tim	DE

## OFFENSE

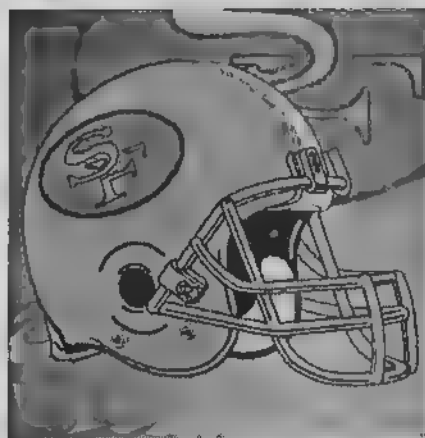
WR	82-TAYLOR	83-Stokes
LT	74-WALLACE	75-Pollack
LG	76-SCRAFFORD	77-Hanshaw
C	61-SAPOLU	66-Oates
RG	69-MILSTEAD	67-Dalman
RT	79-BARTON	75-Pollack
TE	84-JONES	85-Popson
WR	80-RICE	89-Thomas
QB	8-YOUNG	18-Grbac
HB	20-LOVILLE	32-Ervins
FB	27-WALKER	24-Willis

## DEFENSE

LE	96-BROWN	99-Harris
LT	97-B. YOUNG	90-Bryant
RT	94-STUBBLEFIELD	90-Bryant
RE	57-JACKSON	91-Williams
LLB	54-WOODALL	98-Goss
MLB	50-PLUMMER	55-Mitchell
RLB	51-NORTON	53-Peterson
LCB	25-DAVIS	22-Drakeford
RCB	23-POPE	22-Drakeford
SS	46-MCDONALD	33-Dodge
FS	36-HANKS	33-Dodge

## SPECIAL TEAMS

P	3-THOMPSON	
K	14-WILKINS	
H	18-GRBAC	3-Thompson
C	66-OATES	
PR	82-TAYLOR	35-Carter
KR	35-CARTER	24-Willis

VIKINGS  
49ERS

**W**hat would a 49ers season be without a clash with the Vikings?

Who knows? There hasn't been a season without the Vikes in a Niners schedule since 1985. Among teams not in the Western Division, only the Giants have played the Niners more often during that period.

And there have been some doozies with the Vikings. Possibly the best 49ers team to take the field over the last 16 years hosted the Vikings in the divisional playoffs following the 1987 regular season. The Niners finished No. 1 in overall offense and defense that season, but they couldn't get by the Vikes.

The Vikings dispatched the 49ers 36-24 as Anthony Carter hauled in 10 passes for 227 yards. That game might have actually served as a catalyst, making the Niners tougher when it counted most. They won NFL championships in the following two seasons with relative ease.

The best game between the two teams might have occurred in 1988. Steve Young started for the injured Joe Montana, and with 1:58 left, he made a daring 49-yard dash for the end zone. After breaking several tackles Young flopped over the goal line for an improbable 24-21 victory.

**OF COURSE, THERE HAVE BEEN** some forgettable games as well. Like last year's 21-14 loss in the season finale. With all the playoff goodies in hand (homefield advantage throughout, first-round bye, division crown) the 49ers made the game look like a preseason matchup. Coach George Seifert was set on playing his starters well into the second half. But after a few good clubbings of Steve Young, Seifert made wholesale changes. He pulled most of the starters on offense and followed it with liberal substitutions on defense.

The Vikings played the entire game without starting quarterback Warren Moon, who was out with a knee injury. They had enough to beat the 49ers' B-team anyway and snap a nine-game losing streak against their non-divisional rival.

Expect both teams to have their starters on the field for the



Qadry Ismail is dangerous both as a receiver and kick returner

game's entirety. This year, both teams will be contending for their share of playoff loot. The Vikings will be straining to make the playoffs. The Niners will be looking to secure a first-round bye and possibly gain homefield advantage.

WHEN THE  
49ERS  
HAVE THE BALL

The Niners will be facing a defense similar to their own. Defensive coordinator Tony Dungy believes in an aggressive, turnover-inducing scheme. The Vikings struggled earlier in the season, when they went through a 12-quarter stretch without an interception. Still, they are one of the best turnover forcers in the league, and as of two weeks ago, were among league leaders with a plus-four turnover ratio. Their pressure, however, leaves the young secondary exposed, and opposing teams have taken advantage of that. They were 26th in pass defense, which should look good to the 49ers' second-ranked passing offense. Look for the Vikings to try the same thing the Bills tried — double-cover the outside receivers and force the 49ers to throw to running backs and tight ends.

"Watch Out Below" has been the Vikings' offensive slogan. Their offensive woes are long behind them and lately, behind the hot hand of quarterback Warren Moon, they've been lighting up the scoreboard. Going into last week's game against the Browns, the Vikings had a four-game streak of scoring at least 30 points. It tied a club record with the 1962 and '65 teams. During a recent five-game stretch leading up to the Browns game, quarterback Warren Moon had tossed 14 touchdown passes and only six interceptions. Despite injuries to promising running backs James Stewart and Robert Smith, the Vikings have been able to counter with the fine play of former 49ers running back Amp Lee. Former Niners assistant coach Dennis Green is the only Bill Walsh disciple who has yet to embrace the West Coast offense. The Vikings often go with a three-receiver or two-tight end set.

WHEN THE  
VIKINGS  
HAVE THE BALL

## GAME 15

QUOTABLE

"SOMETIMES WE'VE BEEN ADEQUATE, SOMETIMES WE HAVEN'T. YOU HAVE TO PRIDE YOURSELF ON STOPPING TOUCHDOWNS MORE THAN THE YARDAGE YOU MIGHT GIVE UP."

— VIKINGS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR TONY DUNGY

## FACTS &amp; FIGURES

**DATE:** Monday, Dec. 18  
**SITE:** Candlestick Park  
**TIME:** 6 p.m. (PST)  
**TELEVISION:** ABC (Channel 7 in Bay Area)

**SURFACE:** Grass  
**SERIES:** 49ers, 18-17-1  
**LAST MEETING:** Vikings 21, 49ers 14, Dec. 26, 1994

## WORTH NOTING

**HIS STAR IS FADING:** Vikings defensive coordinator **Tony Dungy** was a hot head-coaching prospect two years ago, when his defense was tops in the NFL. Dungy's defense this season has slipped 22 spots in the ratings. Two years ago the Vikings gave up 25 TDs all year. With three quarters of this season played the Vikes had given up 30. Dungy has experienced a talent drain. **DT Henry Thomas**, **S Vencie Glenn**, **CB Anthony Parker**, **DE Chris Doleman** and **LB Carlos Jenkins** are all playing their football elsewhere.

**NOT SO EASY ANYMORE:** Vikings **RB Robert Smith** was averaging more than 5 yards per carry early this season. Yards got harder to come by when defenses geared up to stop him. Smith had missed three games and counting because of an ankle injury, which was a day-to-day problem leading up to Monday's game.

**A DIFFERENT DRUMMER:** Smith is also not your typical football player. He once carried a huge telescope to training camp and reads complex books on astronomy. He's considering going to medical school when his playing days are over. So it's ironic one of the biggest problems for Smith has been staying healthy. In his three

seasons ankle, knee and hip injuries, chicken pox and an ear infection have caused him to miss 17 of 50 games.

**TRENT WARFARE:** Buccaneers **QB Trent Dilfer** hates the Vikings. In the Bucs' 20-17 victory early in the season, Dilfer said Vikings **DB Corey Fuller** spit in his face. In the 31-17 loss on Dec. 3 Dilfer was kicked out of the game after attacking **DT John Randle** following a hit. "You have just got to keep your composure in a big game like this," Vikings **QB Warren Moon** said.

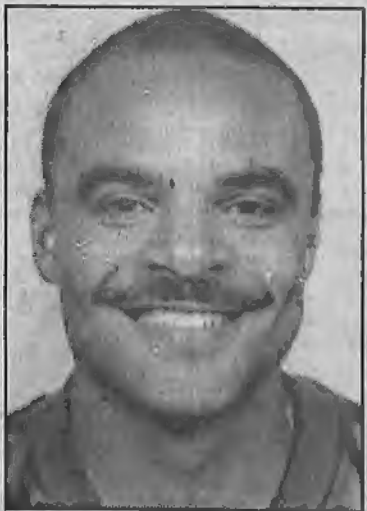
**MOON OVER MINNESOTA:** Warren Moon, 39, is having an outstanding year. Moon broke **Fran Tarkenton's** record for touchdown passes by a quarterback 38 or older. His 26 touchdown passes were two better than Tarkenton's 24 at age 38. The 26 TDs is also tied Tarkenton's team record. Other records in reach for Moon — **Sonny Jurgensen's** completion percentage of 64 at age 40. Moon was completing 62 percent after 13 games.

**OVERTIME OVERDONE:** By Week 7 the Vikes had played nine of their last 20 games in overtime. **OT Todd Steussie** figures the team has played six full games more than anyone else.

## KEY PLAYERS

VIKINGS

**QB Warren Moon** has been hot and recently pulled into 10th place on the all-time touchdown pass list. He was also fourth on the all-time completion list, surpassing **Dan Fouts**. Moon is deadly on third downs, throwing for more than 1,000 yards, 11 touchdowns and four interceptions on that down alone ... **DT John Randle** ate up the Niners' line last year, and he's again among league leaders in sacks (9 1/2) ... **WR Cris Carter** holds the all-time record for receptions in a season with 122



Warren Moon

last year, and was second in the conference with 95 after 13 games this season ... Rookie **S Orlando Thomas** was among league leaders in interceptions with six ... **OT Todd Steussie** is the star on the Vikings' offensive line.

49ERS

**LB Ken Norton** is on a quest to set a team record for tackles in one season. He needs 33 in three games to get it ... **DT Dana Stubblefield** has played extremely well lately and will be matched against one of the best guards in the league, **Randall McDaniel** ... Veteran **DE Dennis Brown** will face hulking, inexperienced **OT Korey Stringer** ... If the 49ers want to get their running game going they've have to get **LB Ed McDaniel** blocked. He leads the Vikings in tackles ... **WR Jerry**

**Rice** is always a threat to the Vikings. He has 46 catches for 721 yards and 12 TDs in 11 games against them ... **CBs Eric Davis** and **Marquez Pope** will have to deal with **Cris Carter's** height (6-3).



Korey Stringer

## VIKINGS

## ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

1	Warren Moon	QB
4	Mike Saxon	P
5	Chad May	QB
7	Fuad Reveiz	K
14	Brad Johnson	QB
20	Dewayne Washington	CB
21	Charles Mincy	S
22	David Palmer	WR
24	Robert Griffith	S
25	Alfred Jackson	CB
26	Robert Smith	RB
27	Corey Fuller	CB
28	James Stewart	RB
29	Charles Evans	FB
30	Bobby Phillips	RB
31	Scottie Graham	RB
32	Amp Lee	RB
37	Donald Frank	CB
42	Harion Barnett	S
43	Orlando Thomas	S
50	Jeff Brady	LB
51	Broderick Thomas	LB
52	Richard Brown	LB
53	Tuineau Alipate	LB
55	Jack Del Rio	LB
56	Pete Bercich	LB
58	Ed McDaniel	LB
59	Ashley Sheppard	LB
61	Everett Lindsay	G/C
62	Jeff Christy	C
63	Keith Alex	G
64	Randall McDaniel	G
66	John Gerak	TE/G
67	Rick Cunningham	T
68	Mike Morris	C
71	David Dixon	G
72	Jason Fisk	DT
73	Todd Steussie	T
77	Korey Stringer	T
80	Cris Carter	WR
81	Chris Walsh	WR
82	Qadry Ismail	WR
85	Greg DeLong	TE
86	Jake Reed	WR
87	Adrian Cooper	TE
89	Andrew Joran	TE
90	Derrick Alexander	DE
91	Martin Harrison	DE
92	Roy Barker	DE
93	John Randle	DT
95	Fernando Smith	DE
98	Esera Tuaolo	DT
99	James Harris	DE

## OFFENSE

WR	86-REED	22-Palmer
LT	73-STEUSSIE	63-Alex
LG	64-McDANIEL	66-Gerak
C	62-CHRISTY	61-Lindsay
RG	66-GERAK	71-Dixon
RT	77-STRINGER	67-Cunningham
TE	87-COOPER	89-Jordan
WR	80-CARTER	81-Walsh
WR	82-ISMAIL	22-Palmer
QB	1-MOON	14-Johnson
RB	32-LEE	31-Graham

## DEFENSE

LE	92-BARKER	91-Harrison
NT	98-TUAOLO	72-Fisk
UT	93-RANDLE	95-Smith
RE	90-ALEXANDER	99-Harris
SLB	51-THOMAS	53-Alipate
MLB	55-DEL RIO	50-Brady
WLB	58-McDANIEL	56-Bercich
LCB	37-FRANK	27-Fuller
RCB	20-WASHINGTON	25-Jackson
SS	42-BARNETT	24-Griffith
FS	43-THOMAS	21-Mincy

## SPECIAL TEAMS

P	4-SAXON	7-Revelz
K	7-REVELZ	62-Christy
KC	68-MORRIS	62-Christy
PC	68-MORRIS	62-Christy
KOR	82-ISMAIL	22-Palmer
PR	22-PALMER	32-Lee
H	4-SAXON	14-Johnson



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#### This Week's Game Last Week's Record Season Record

	7-8 121-88	8-7 128-81	6-9 115-94	10-5 136-73
GREEN BAY at NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY
NEW ENGLAND at PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
ARIZONA at PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
ATLANTA at CAROLINA	CAROLINA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA
CINCINNATI at CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND
DENVER at KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY
JACKSONVILLE at DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT
MIAMI at BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	MIAMI	MIAMI
NY GIANTS at DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS
NY JETS at HOUSTON	HOUSTON	NY JETS	NY JETS	HOUSTON
SAN DIEGO at INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	SAN DIEGO	SAN DIEGO	INDIANAPOLIS
TAMPA BAY at CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO
WASHINGTON at ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	WASHINGTON	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS
OAKLAND at SEATTLE	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND
MINNESOTA at SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO



Doug Hong  
Econo Lodge



Mark Lewman  
Five Points Tire



The Staff of  
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Debbie Clark  
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Last Week's Record  
Season Record

	49ers Report Go Niners!	49ers Report Go Niners!	Jerry Lami Stickets	Loring DeMartini Van's Restaurant
	11-4 125-84	10-5 132-77	8-7 126-81	10-5 136-73
GREEN BAY at NEW ORLEANS	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY
NEW ENGLAND at PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
ARIZONA at PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
ATLANTA at CAROLINA	CAROLINA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA	ATLANTA
CINCINNATI at CLEVELAND	CINCINNATI	CLEVELAND	CINCINNATI	CINCINNATI
DENVER at KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY
JACKSONVILLE at DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT
MIAMI at BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO
NY GIANTS at DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS
NY JETS at HOUSTON	HOUSTON	HOUSTON	HOUSTON	HOUSTON
SAN DIEGO at INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS
TAMPA BAY at CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO
WASHINGTON at ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS
OAKLAND at SEATTLE	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND
MINNESOTA at SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN FRANCISCO

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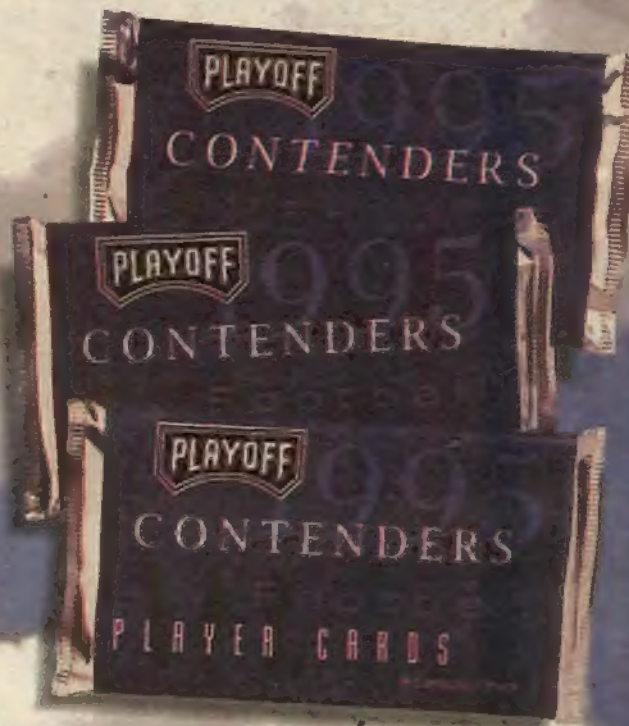
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